

CITY OF AU GRES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Jon Sanford, Dan Heinrich, Jane Barbour, John Popovich, Joe Warr
ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Dale Wiltse, Arenac County Commissioner Bobbie Burke, Sarah Dettloff

1). CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jon Sanford called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2). PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor led City Council and audience into the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). ROLL CALL

Roll call noted all members present.

4). MINUTES

MOTION (Warr) to approve January 7, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

5). SET AGENDA

MOTION (Warr) to approve agenda as presented; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Police Chief Chuck Allen was present tonight and had January stats sheet for City Council. He is officially retired from the Isosco County Sheriff Department. He will be working a mix of day/night shifts now. Working with City Manager and property owners along US-23 on informing them of city ordinance where they must keep their sidewalks shoveled during the winter months.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

8.1 Riverside Drain Response

City Manager had in council packet a letter from Arenac County Attorney Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes in regards to the Riverside Drain project. City Manager and several property owners are upset and frustrated with the entire project and just want to meet and discuss what options are available and not involve attorneys.

9). NEW BUSINESS:

9.1 Public Hearing to Submit MSHDA MiNeighborhood Grant

MOTION (Warr) to open public hearing at 7:24 pm to hear public comments on the City applying to MSHD MiNeighborhood Grant in the amount of \$500,000; support (Barbour). Motion carried. Sarah Dettloff had questions on AMI percentages and grant program and was answered by City Manager. Discussion led to adopting new resolution with new grant administrator and the lack of support from the Arenac County Housing Authority.

9.2 Close Public Hearing

MOTION (Warr) to close public hearing at 7:43 pm; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

9.3 Adopt Resolution of Support for MiNeighborhood Grant Application

MOTION (Warr) to adopt resolution of support for the MiNeighborhood Grant Application in the amount of \$500,000 with Katherine Methner as grant administrator; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

10). CITY MANAGER REPORT

- City will need to hold a public hearing at the March Council meeting to approve City purchasing 5 lots in Southcourt Estates Subdivision where these new homes will be constructed pending MSHDA Grant approval.
- Working with Rick Freeman & Mike Russo on finalizing campground expansion/bathroom. The City was awarded a \$400,000 grant but needs to wait until budget is passed by the Governor probably in May/June 2025.
- Katherine Methner will be applying for the MSHDA MiNeighborhood grant by the end of February 2025.
- Planning Commission just approved the Rivermill Event Center to be located in the former bean & grain elevator owned by Brent & Denise Schutte.
- DPW staff been doing a great job snowplowing!
- Arenac Community Foundation Trivia Night set for February 15; still looking for teams!

11). COMMENTS

11.1 Citizens:

Bobbie Burke: the City's Representative to the Arenac County Commission, will report back to the Board on the Riverside Drain situation and see if we can resolve.

11.2 Mayor: Thanked DPW for the great job they are doing keep streets plowed!

11.3 Council Members:

Heinrich: Wanted to know who plows Main Street bike path.; City DPW staff does. Thought City was going to get quotes or talk to JR Stolt about doing all sidewalks in town? City Manager would love to see City buy piece of equipment and after the initial snow clean-up of roads, have time to do all sidewalks in town not just US-23. Court Street and Michigan Avenue have high foot traffic and with the snow, now pedestrians are just walking in the road. City ordinance only specifies the commercial US-23 sidewalks must be cleared, nowhere else.

Warr: Has a suggestion more towards the Chamber of Commerce instead of City. The recent Chamber casino trip everyone parked at Four Ones Restaurant and boarded the bus. All day, it looked like restaurant was busy and he didn't stop to eat for that various reason. Might have hurt the restaurant for business if you didn't know what was going on; suggest parking at school or city parking lot next time.

Popovich: Nothing

Barbour: City staff doing a great job plowing my road!

11). PAYMENT OF BILLS

MOTION (Warr) to approve payment of bills as submitted; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

12). APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION (Heinrich) to approve December financial statements as submitted; support (Warr). Motion carried.

13). ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Popovich) to adjourn meeting at 8:07 p.m.; support (Barbour). Motion carried.